Business: Many of Southern California's food retailers are cutting hours to keep their shops better stocked and cleaner. A18

THE ORANGE COUNTY
REGISTER

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CORONAVIRUS

County deters any gatherings

Bars and breweries must close, restaurants limited to takeout or delivery through March 31

JEFF GRITCHEN — STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Orange County Health Officer Dr. Nichole Quick issued an order Tuesday prohibiting public and private gatherings of any number of people, excluding families in a single household, that are considered nonessential in Orange County. Above, diners eat at TK Burgers prior to the ban.

By Alicia Robinson
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@ARobWriter on Twitter

Orange County bars, breweries and wineries were ordered to close, restaurants were told to offer takeout or delivery only and people were told not to gather starting Tuesday, to curb transmission of the novel coronavirus.

An order Orange County Health Officer Dr. Nichole Quick issued Tuesday prohibits public and private gatherings of any size — not including families that live together — and lasts through March 31.

It exempts a lengthy list of people and businesses performing "essential activities" including emergency responders, health care providers, grocery stores, banks, gas stations and homeless shelters.

"This is not a lockdown," Orange County Board of Supervisors Chairwoman Michelle Steel said in a statement. "The public health order issued today simply follows existing state directives. The order, according to state guidelines, prohibits public, private, social and work gatherings. Businesses are allowed to open, but must practice social distancing (6-foot separation)."

After a flurry of questions and concerns about the initial order, county officials sent out more information Tuesday evening to explain it does not call for people to

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Washington: Trump administration eyes $1 trillion stimulus, including checks to some Americans

By Alan Rappeport, Emily Cochrane and Nicholas Fandos
The New York Times

WASHINGTON » The Trump administration Tuesday called for urgent action to speed $1 trillion into the economy, including sending $250 billion worth of checks to millions of Americans at risk of losing their livelihoods, as the United States government prepared to wield its most powerful tools to buttress an economy that faces the threat of a recession as the coronavirus pandemic spreads.

The Federal Reserve took the rare step of unleashing its emergency lending powers, and President Donald Trump called on Congress to quickly approve the sweeping economic stimulus package, dispatching his Treasury secretary to Capitol Hill to begin hammering it out, as large sections of the economy shut down and companies began laying off workers.

With markets experiencing levels of volatility not seen since the 2008 financial crisis, the White House vowed to use every weapon at its disposal to combat the crisis.

"We want to go big," Trump said at a news conference at the White House, adding that he had instructed Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin, to introduce measures that would provide more immediate economic support over the payroll tax cut holiday that he had been promoting.

During lunch on Capitol Hill not long after, Mnuchin privately told Republican senators that he envisioned the direct payments covering two weeks of pay and going out by the end of April, according to three people familiar with the discussion who described it on the condition of anonymity. Additional checks would be possible if the national emergency

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RICH PEDRONCELLI — AP POOL

California Gov. Gavin Newsom talks about the state's response to the coronavirus at the Governor's Office of Emergency Services in Rancho Cordova on Tuesday. He said schools likely will not open until the summer.

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Dr. Anthony Fauci, director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, speaks at a news conference at the White House on Tuesday.

DOUG MILLS
THE NEW YORK

Sacramento: Newsom says schools likely won't reopen before summer, signs state funding bills

From news service reports

Most California schools will likely remain closed for the rest of the school year because of the new coronavirus, Gov. Gavin Newsom said Tuesday.

Nearly all the state's schools have already shut down as the most populous state tries to stop the spread of the virus, and the rest will soon, he said.

"I would plan and assume it is unlikely that many of these schools, few if any, will open before the summer break," he said in a news conference streamed online.

"I don't want to mislead you, to six-plus million kids in our system and their families, they need to make some plans at a time when a lot of plans are already being curtailed," said Newsom, a father of four children. "But planning with kids is some of the most challenging planning."

The state has applied for a federal waiver that means children would not have to face academic tests once they eventually return to school, said Newsom, a Democrat.

"We think it is totally inappropriate for kids to worry about coming back and being tested," he said.

Newsom said he returned home Monday after a hectic day to find one of his two daughters, 6-year-old Brooklynn, in her room, her stuffed bunny and most of her bedding on the floor, as she cried about the schools being closed and that she could not see her friends.

"I told her, 'Honey, I don't think the schools are going to open again,'" Newsom said. "If I can tell my daughter that and not tell your daughter ... then I'm not being honest and true to the people of the state of California. Boy I hope I'm wrong, but I believe that to be the case."

Many of the shuttered schools may be used

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2020 ELECTION

Biden wins Florida, Illinois, Arizona; Trump clinches the GOP nomination

By Will Weissert and Brian Slodysko
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON » Joe Biden swept to victory in Florida, Illinois and Arizona on Tuesday, increasingly pulling away with a Democratic presidential primary upended by the coronavirus and building pressure on Bernie Sanders to abandon his campaign.

The former vice president's third big night in as many weeks came amid tremendous uncertainty confronting the Democratic contest as it collides with efforts to slow the spread of the virus that have shut down large swaths of American life. Polls were shuttered in Ohio, and although balloting went ahead in the other three states, election workers and voters reported problems.

Biden's quest for his party's nomination now seems within reach. He needs less than half of the remaining delegates to become the nominee. The

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EVAN VUCCI — THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Former Vice President and Democratic candidate Joe Biden won all three states holding elections on Tuesday.

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